

Guide to the Sands Hotel Photographs

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English

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Division.**

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Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections Division.
Creator:	Sands Hotel & Casino (Las Vegas, Nev.)
Title:	Sands Hotel Photographs
ID:	PH-00287
Date [inclusive]:	1950-1980
Physical Description:	11.2 Linear Feet 27 hanging folders, 1 shared box of negatives, 4 boxes, 1 shared binder of slides, and 2 flat files
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The Sands Hotel Photographs depict entertainers, celebrities, events, amenities, and staff at the Sands Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada from 1950 to 1980. The photographs primarily depict entertainers like Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, and the Copa Girls performing in the Copa Room, the showroom of the Sands Hotel. The photographs also depict patrons gambling, events held in the Sands Hotel's ballrooms, banquets, the Sands Hotel's pool, rooms in the hotel, and Jack Entratter, the hotel's director of entertainment.

Preferred Citation

Sands Hotel Photographs, 1950-1980. PH-00287. Special Collections, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Historical Background

The Sands Hotel was one of the most illustrious hotel-casinos on the Las Vegas Strip. It opened in 1952 amid controversy: the Nevada Tax Commission (NTC) initially denied the Sands gaming licenses because its investors, principally Mack Kuffman, had ties to organized crime. Only after Jake Freedman bought out Kuffman's share did the NTC grant the licenses.

The Sands quickly became one of the most popular hotel-casinos in Las Vegas, partially due to New York nightclub manager Jack Entratter, who became the Sands's entertainment director. During his

tenure, the Sands's showroom, the Copa Room, hosted numerous entertainers, including Nat King Cole, Jerry Lewis, and the famous "Rat Pack," composed of Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Sammy Davis Jr., Peter Lawford, and Joey Bishop. In 1960, the Rat Pack movie *Oceans 11* was filmed at the Sands. The Copa Room also featured the Copa Girls, one of Las Vegas's most famous groups of showgirls. The Copa Room and other amenities at the Sands became popular destinations for Hollywood celebrities.

In 1967, the Sands was purchased by business magnate Howard Hughes, one of several hotel-casinos on the Las Vegas Strip that came under Hughes's management. After several attempts to sell the property permanently, Hughes's company, the Summa Corporation, sold the Sands to Kirk Kerkorian in 1988, who then sold it to Sheldon Adelson's Interface Group after a few months. In 1996, the Sands was demolished and the Venetian Hotel was erected in its place.

Source:

Burbank, Jeff. "Sands Hotel," Online Nevada Encyclopedia. March 20, 2009. <http://www.onlinenevada.org/articles/sands-hotel>

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Scope and Contents Note

The Sands Hotel Photographs depict entertainers, celebrities, events, amenities, and staff at the Sands Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada from 1950 to 1980. The photographs primarily depict entertainers like Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, and the Copa Girls performing in the Copa Room, the showroom of the Sands Hotel. The photographs also depict patrons gambling, events held in the Sands Hotel's ballrooms, banquets, the Sands Hotel's pool, rooms in the hotel, and Jack Entratter, the hotel's director of entertainment.

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Arrangement

Materials are arranged into five series:

Series I. Entertainer photographs, 1950-1970;

Series II. Copa Girls photographs, 1950-1970;

Series III. Event photographs, 1950-1980;

Series IV. Sands Hotel and Casino amenities photographs, 1950-1969;

Series V. Sands Hotel and Casino staff and buildings photographs, 1950-1969.

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Administrative Information

Access

The collection is open for research. Portions of this collection have been digitized and are [available online](#).

Publication Rights

Materials in this collection may be protected by copyrights and other rights. See [Reproductions and Use](#) on the UNLV Special Collections website for more information about reproductions and permissions to publish.

Acquisition Note

Materials were donated in 2000 by the Public Relations Department of the Sands Hotel; accession number 2000-12.

Processing Note

Materials were processed by Special Collections staff. In 2015, as part of a legacy finding aid conversion project, Lindsay Oden wrote the collection description in compliance with current professional standards.

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Related Materials

Related Materials

The following resources may provide additional information related to the materials in this collection:

Sands Hotel Collection, 1952-1979. MS-00417. Special Collections, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

Las Vegas Strip Hotel Labor Relations Collection, 1963-2008. MS-00659. Special Collections, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

Carolyn Merriam Collection on the Sands Hotel, 1950s-1996. MS-00673. Special Collections, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

Antonio Morelli Photograph Collection, 1932-1964. PH-00365. Special Collections, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Controlled Access Headings

- photographs
- Las Vegas (Nev.)
- Casinos
- Hotels
- Entertainment
- Sands Hotel & Casino (Las Vegas, Nev.)
- Entratter, Jack
- Sinatra, Frank
- Martin, Dean

Collection Inventory

Entertainer photographs, 1950-1970

Physical Description: 8.2 Linear Feet 19 hanging folders, 2 boxes, 1 flat file, 1 shared box of negatives, and 1 shared binder of slides

Scope and Contents Note

Materials depict entertainers at the Sands Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada from 1950 to 1970. The photographs primarily depict the Rat Pack, which was composed of Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Sammy Davis Jr., Peter Lawford, and Joey Bishop. The photographs also depict Sands entertainment director Jack Entratter, Lena Horne, Louis Prima, Nat King Cole, and other entertainers performing at the Sands Hotel.

Arrangement

Materials remain in original order.

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"Rat Pack" and Copa Girls performing, approximately 1960-1965

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Copa Girls photographs, 1950-1970

Physical Description: 2 Linear Feet 10 hanging folders, 1 flat file, 1 shared box of negatives, and 2 boxes

Scope and Contents Note

Materials depict the Copa Girls performing or rehearsing at the Sands Hotel from approximately 1950 to 1970. The photographs primarily depict the Copa Girls, one of Las Vegas's most famous groups of showgirls, in costume or rehearsing with Dean Martin, Frank Sinatra, and Jack Entratter. The photographs also depict the Copa Girls performing in various productions, including the "Ziegfeld Follies."

Arrangement

Materials remain in original order.

Title/Description	Containers
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Event photographs, 1950-1980

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Scope and Contents Note

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Arrangement

Materials remain in original order.

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Sands Hotel and Casino amenities photographs, 1950-1969

Physical Description: 2 Linear Feet 11 hanging folders, 1 flat file, and 1 shared box of negatives

Scope and Contents Note

Materials depict amenities at the Sands Hotel from 1950 to 1969. The photographs primarily depict showrooms and ballrooms at the Sands, including the Copa Room and the Garden Room. The photographs also depict patrons gambling in the Sands Casino, rooms at the Sands Hotel, and the Sands Hotel pool.

Arrangement

Materials remain in original order.

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Sands Hotel and Casino staff and buildings photographs, 1950-1969

Physical Description: 2 Linear Feet 18 hanging folders, 1 shared box of negatives, 1 shared binder of slides, and 1 flat file

Scope and Contents Note

Materials depict the buildings and staff of the Sands Hotel from approximately 1950 to 1969. The photographs primarily depict staff at the Sands, the hotel's marquee advertising various performers, the exteriors of the Sands Hotel's buildings, aerial views of the Sands, construction of the Sands Hotel's tower, the Aqueduct building, and workers at the hotel.

Arrangement

Materials remain in original order.

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Danny Thomas and men at the Sands Hotel, approximately 1954-1963	Folder 27
Danny Thomas and men at the Sands Hotel, approximately 1954-1963	Folder 27

Jake Freedman welcoming a man as he steps off an airplane, approximately 1954-1963	Folder 27
Men in front of an airplane, approximately 1954-1963	Folder 27
Jake Freedman and other men in front of an airplane, approximately 1954-1963	Folder 27
Men at the Sands Hotel, approximately 1954-1963	Folder 27
Jack Entratter and men at the Sands Hotel, approximately 1954-1963	Folder 27

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